



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 11-19-09

Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2009
5:30-7:00PM

Present: Emily Vincent, Carlene Newell, Mary Decourcey, John Sofis Scheft, Cindy Bouvier, Cindy Starks, Lynn Horgan, Cindy Sheridan Curran, Karen Dillon, Brian Dietz, Christine Connolly, Jack Flood, Leon Cantor, Molly Simmons, Susan Svencer, Colleen Leger, Deacon Dzierzawski

Attendees: 17

I. Recent Events:

Guiding Good Choices (Calvary Pilot series): (John Sofis Scheft)

John spoke briefly about the 5 GGC workshops he and Kim Spencer co-facilitated at Calvary Church. Between 8-10 parents participated in the program, but weekly attendance was inconsistent. He acknowledged the importance of getting participant buy-in early in the program. He recommended that future facilitators strongly encourage participants to commit to the full five-week series during the first workshop. (The program has been proven effective only when administered comprehensively.) He also suggested future facilitators stick closely to the proven program and avoid freelancing whenever possible. In addition, he highlighted what he considered to be one of the underlying strengths of the program—that it does not push any particular agenda, but rather supports parents to make healthy and informed decisions for their family. John concluded by summarizing the five workshops: understanding youth social development, instituting family meetings, supporting youth to stay out of trouble *while* still having a good time, managing anger, and involving children in family decision-making processes and household activities.

Unwanted medication take-back event: (Susan Svencer)

Susan briefly reported on the medication disposal program that took place at the DPW Community Collection Day on November 14th. To ensure proper and legal compliance with state and DEA regulations, a volunteer pharmacist and a law enforcement officer (Captain Bongiorno) were present during the four-hour event. The pharmacist sorted through the medications and identified and logged all controlled substances. Captain Bongiorno oversaw this process and then transferred the controlled substances to a secure storage unit at the police station. Narcotics collected at the event will be destroyed along with other illicit drugs seized by police. All medications collected at the event will be destroyed in an incinerator. More than 3X as many narcotics were collected at this event than at the previous take-back program in the spring.

Alcoholic beverage awareness seminar: (Colleen Leger)

AYHSC partnered with APD and the Arlington Liquor Licensing Board to offer this seminar to the 36 establishments in town with all-alcohol and beer and wine liquor licenses. This seminar, which took place on October 18th, consisted of a presentation by a former Supervising Inspector for the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. He provided an overview of state and local regulations, acceptable forms of identification, tools for detecting false IDs and practical strategies for avoiding direct and indirect sales to minors and intoxicated persons. 23 retail staff represented 16 establishments at this seminar. Two Selectmen also attended. License-holders who attended the

seminar, or who sent staff to attend the seminar, received \$75.00 off their liquor-license renewal. Our hope is to make this training mandatory for license-holders to renew their licenses in the future.

Monthly Newsletter: (Colleen Leger)

The first AYHSC online newsletter was sent out last month. Feedback so far has been positive, and suggestions for future issues would be greatly appreciated.

II. Coalition Evaluation:

Introductions

Deacon Dzierzawski is our new Coalition Evaluator! Deacon lives in Swanton, Ohio, where he is an independent consultant, Selectman and DFC community coalition volunteer. He has considerable experience working with community coalitions, both in a volunteer and leadership capacity. For the last several years, he has also provided coalition evaluation services as a private consultant. We have hired Deacon to help us develop and implement our Coalition evaluation plan, which we will use to focus our efforts, establish short and long-term goals, track our activities and monitor our progress. This plan will also enable AYHSC to communicate more accurately with invested stakeholders about the impact we are making on the community.

Evaluation Presentation

Please see attached handouts, and feel free to email Colleen at cleger@town.arlington.ma.us if you have any questions.

Moving forward

Deacon will be working closely with the Evaluation Committee over the upcoming year. The Evaluation Committee will report out at monthly Coalition meetings on progress related to evaluation plan.

III. Upcoming Events and Projects:

CHNA Planning Meeting: 12/07/09 (3:00-5:00pm)

Please refer to 10/15/09 minutes for information about CHNA regional health assessment.

YRBS Administration at AHS: 12/14/09 (time TBD)

Volunteers needed for roughly 2 hours to assist in the process of administering and collecting surveys.

Social Host Liability 101: 12/16/09 (12:00-2:00pm)

Networking luncheon hosted by Northeast Regional Center for Health Communities and Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD.) Attendees will hear from MADD staff and a panel of experts about drafting a Social Host Liability policy and the implications the policy can have for effective enforcement.

"Sticker Shock": (Date TBD, most likely second week(end) of December)

Members of the Youth Council and SADD Club are coordinating a "Sticker Shock" campaign in Arlington to raise public awareness about the minimum drinking age law. "Sticker Shock" is a one-day, youth-led event, during which volunteers place stickers (with the message "Hey You!! It is illegal to provide alcohol for people under 21!") on multi-packs of beer, wine coolers and other alcohol products at local liquor stores. We are looking for adult volunteers to work with youth on this project.

Guiding Good Choices: 1/05/09-2/02/09 (6:30-8:30 at Robbins Library)

Lynn Horgan and Cindy Sheridan Curran will co-facilitate this series of GGC workshops. So far, 20 parents have registered for the program.